

BOROUGH OF BEXHILL



A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E Y E A R
1 9 4 4

W. GILLITT, M.D., D.P.H.
Acting Medical Officer of Health.



TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF BEXHILL.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1944 as your Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Figures of population, which on grounds of national security were omitted from the reports prepared during the War, are now included.

Throughout the period under review, which saw the beginning of the sixth year of the War, the general health of the Borough was well maintained, and there was a gratifying absence of epidemic disease: in fact the incidence of all types of infectious disease was lower than it has been for some years past.

The campaign for the protection of children against Diphtheria continues to produce most satisfactory results. At the end of the year it was estimated that 58% of all children in the Borough under 5 (i.e. 72% of children from 1 to 5 years) and 89% of those between 5 and 15 years had been protected. During the year no cases of Diphtheria were notified in the Borough. Although about 9,000 children in England and Wales died from Diphtheria during the War years, a total which was higher than the number killed by bombs, estimated at about 8,000, the number of deaths from the disease during 1944 was less than one-third of the pre-war average. The reduced incidence and mortality of Diphtheria during the past year can, I think, quite reasonably be attributed to the large percentage of children immunised.

Although the depletion of our staff reduced the number of routine inspections, all nuisances and unsatisfactory conditions brought to our notice were investigated and dealt with.

Much time was spent on the supervision of the milk supply of the Borough: it is a matter of common knowledge that the shortage of skilled labour on the farms and in the dairies, together with transport difficulties have lowered the quality of milk which reaches the retailer and therefore the consumer.

This greatly increased the responsibility of the Health Department at a time when extra inspections and sampling were difficult to arrange: however, this work has always been given priority over other duties, and my reports have always received the careful consideration of the Health Committee.

It may be that the stress which has been laid on this branch of health activities has brought into undue prominence the unsatisfactory samples, without giving sufficient emphasis to the many which were satisfactory. Be this as it may, the health of the child population has been very gratifying during the year, and no illness which could in any way be attributed to poor milk has come to my notice.

The most noticeable change in the Borough has been the return of the population resulting in the rapid re-occupation of empty premises and the general clearing up of the town. Until the flying-bomb period resulted in so much further damage to property the outlook as regards repairs and maintenance to property was quite hopeful. However, war damage repairs have absorbed almost all available labour, and only the most urgent work has been called for by my Department. The various tables, whilst showing a satisfactory number of visits and inspections, show a disappointing amount of completed work.

As in many other towns which have been evacuated, Bexhill's empty houses proved a breeding ground for dry rot and many floors are having to be renewed and other woodwork replaced. Fortunately this work is receiving the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and it is therefore possible to insist that proper methods are employed, so avoiding much of the unsatisfactory patching which has taken place in the past.

One problem which had almost ceased to exist during the war years - overcrowding - is cropping up in acute form, and only when new houses are available can I see any possibility of dealing with the matter on a satisfactory scale.

Mr. Horne, the Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector has continued to give of his best and has been a tower of strength: he has successfully coped with the most difficult problems, and has displayed keenness and tact which have been of the greatest value.

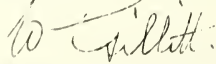
Mrs. Horton and Miss M. Ward continued to give me every possible assistance and the clerical work of the Department has been carried out smoothly and with competence.

The Casualty Services both whole and part-time were busy at times dealing with flying bomb incidents: as a result of their constant training, their work was of a high order and deserving of the greatest commendation: to Mr. Russell, the Staff Officer, is chiefly due the credit for the excellent showing of the Services when in action.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
40a, Sutherland Avenue,
BEXHILL.

July, 1945.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:
W.T. Donovan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Liverpool).

Acting Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:
W. Gillitt, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:
W.E. Norwell, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector:
A.C. Horne, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant:
W. Stone.

Maternity and Child Welfare (Bexhill Nursing Association and East
Sussex County Council):

M.C.W. Clinics: L.M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Ante-Natal
Clinics: L.M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Health Visitors and District Nurses (Bexhill Nursing Association and
East Sussex County Council):

A. Borchard, S.R.N., S.C.M.
L. Fenton, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed September, 1944)
J. Gilleran, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
J. Williams, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis (East Sussex County Council):

Sir A.H. Moore, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., R.C.P.S. (Eng.)
(until March, 1944)
Dr. R. Dingley, M.A., M.D. (from April, 1944)


Venereal Diseases (East Sussex County Council):

P. Lazarus Barlow, M.D.

Clerks:

Miss M. Boynton
K.F. Westwood
Mrs. M.E. Horton
Miss M. Ward

Serving with H.M. Forces.



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S E C T I O N A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

Area	8,015 acres
Population	14,310
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books)			..	5,738
		flats	..	538
Rateable value at end of 1944			..	£350,524
General Rate		..	..	9/6d. in £.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			..	£1,059

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The remarks made in my reports for previous years in connection with the Natural and Social Conditions of the Borough are applicable to the year 1944.

METEOROLOGY..

I am indebted to Mr. H.J. Sargent, the Borough Meteorologist, for the following report for 1944 -

Daily meteorological observations at Bexhill were carried on throughout the year 1944, and regular reports were transmitted to the Meteorological Office (Air Ministry).

The total rainfall for the year was 24.07 inches, 4.72 inches below the normal (28.79 inches). Measurable precipitation (including some light falls of snow on 7 days in February) occurred on 141 days, amounts exceeding 0.04 inches being measured on 99 occasions. November was the wettest month, with a fall of 5.06 inches (normal 3.61 inches). March and May were unusually dry, the total falls being 0.02 inches (normal 1.82 inches) and 0.40 inches (normal 1.90 inches) respectively.

Meteorology (Cont.)

The mean temperature for the year was 49.9° (normal 50.2°): the maximum screen temperature recorded was 77° on August 4th, and the minimum screen temperature 24° on December 28th.

The full records of rainfall, air pressure: screen, earth, and grass temperatures: humidity, cloud amount, visibility, and wind direction, together with other daily observations, are available for reference.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births:						
	Legitimate	..	..	111	120	231
	Illegitimate	..	..	21	22	43
<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population</u>						.. 19.1
Stillbirths:						
	Legitimate	..	..	6	2	8
	Illegitimate	..	..	4	-	4
<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</u>						.. 20
Deaths	..	..	..	99	147	246
<u>Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population</u>						.. 17.2
Deaths from puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:						
	Legitimate	..	..	3	3	6
	Illegitimate	..	..	1	-	1
<u>Death Rate of Infants under one year of age</u>						
	All infants per 1,000 live births			..	..	25.5
	Legitimate infants per 1,000					
	legitimate live births	..		..	..	26
	Illegitimate infants per 1,000					
	illegitimate live births	..		..	..	23.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	47
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				..	..	Nil
Zymotic death rate	..	..	..	..	..	.1

CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes	Male 99	Female 147
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
Influenza	1	1
Measles	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-
Cancer of Buccal cavity and Oesophagus (M)	-	-
Uterus (F)	2	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	5
Cancer of Breast	-	5
Cancer of all other sites	13	16
Diabetes	2	1
Intracranial vascular lesions	10	31
Heart Disease	28	48
Other Diseases of the circulatory system	6	3
Bronchitis	5	9
Pneumonia	3	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-
Appendicitis	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	5	5
Nephritis	2	1
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	-	-
Premature Birth	3	1
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries,	-	-
Infant Diseases	-	1
Suicide	1	1
Road Traffic Accident	-	1
Other Violent Causes	-	4
All Other Causes	7	4

T A B L E 2

AGE AT DEATH - ALL CASES, 1944.

	Under 1 Yr.	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	Over 65	Total
		1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	Over 65	
Males	4	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	2	7	14	67	99
Females	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	9	22	106	147

T A B L E 3

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS, INFANTILE DEATHS & RESPECTIVE RATES BY WARD DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Total Number of Deaths	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Number of Infantile Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Registered Live Births
Central	31	2.2	1	3.7
Egerton Park	54	3.8	2	7.3
Old Town	82	5.7	2	7.3
Sackville	27	1.9	— 1	3.7
St. Mark's	52	3.6	1	3.7

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA

1. (i) The personnel of the Medical, Nursing and Sanitary Staff of the Borough is incorporated at the beginning of the report.

(ii) a. Laboratory facilities.

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations are carried out on behalf of the Authority at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, under an agreement with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service.

b. Ambulance facilities.

There has been no change during the year in the arrangements for the removal of infectious, non-infectious and accident cases, from that outlined in previous Reports.

c. Nursing in the home.

The Bexhill Nursing Association has a benefit membership; there are also voluntary subscribers. The East Sussex County Council makes a grant for the midwives and Health Visitor. The Bexhill Corporation's annual grant of £100 is for general sick nursing. Four nurses, one of whom is a Health Visitor, are maintained by the Association. These nurses attend non-infectious cases in their homes.

During 1944, the following number of cases were attended:-

Maternity and Midwifery ..	91
General cases ..	203

The visits paid were:-

Maternity and Midwifery .	1884
General Nursing ..	4881
General Visits ..	1056

d. Treatment Centres and Clinics.

- (i) Minor Ailment Clinic for School Children, First Aid Post, Little Common Road: Daily.
(To be held at the London Road Clinic, with effect from 1st January, 1945)
- (ii) Dental Clinic for School Children, First Aid Post, Little Common Road: Tuesdays and Thursdays.
(To be held at the London Road Clinic, with effect from 1st January, 1945)
- (iii) Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic, London Road: Weekly - Thursdays.
- (iv) Ante-Natal Clinic, London Road: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.
- (v) Dental Clinic for Mothers and Toddlers, London Road: Once a month.
- (vi) Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic, First Aid Post, Little Common Road: Weekly - Mondays.
(To be held at the London Road Clinic, with effect from 1st January, 1945)
- (vii) Tuberculosis Dispensary, London Road: Weekly - Mondays.
- (viii) Orthopaedic Clinic: Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, until 31st March, 1944. Bexhill Hospital, from 1st April, 1944.
- (ix) Venereal Diseases Clinic: Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings.

e. Hospitals.

Number of Beds retained by the Council in Outside Hospitals.

Brede Smallpox Hospital.

The Bexhill Corporation has entered into an agreement with the County Borough of Hastings whereby two beds are retained at this Hospital for the admission of Bexhill cases of smallpox. No cases were admitted from Bexhill during 1944.

Other Hospitals.

Bexhill Hospital (Voluntary)

Mr. F. Geary, Secretary of the Hospital, has kindly supplied the following information:-

The numbers of patients treated at the Hospital during the show a considerable increase over the figures for 1943. The increase applies especially to the Physiotherapy Department where new up-to-date apparatus has been installed and a fully trained staff are working at full pressure.

The following are statistics of patients treated during 1944:-

In-Patients

Number admitted	..	..	..	715
Average length of stay of each patient	..			18.38 days
Average daily number of beds occupied	..			36.79

Out-Patients

Dental Department	..	..	..	89
Aural Department (temporarily suspended)	.			-
Casualty Department	..	..	..	1245
Massage & Electrical Department		..	..	788
Gynaecological Department	..			44
Ophthalmic Department	145
X-Ray Department	1557
Surgical Out-Patients	607

Total	4475
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Out-Patient Attendances	21021
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2. Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in the Borough is carried out by the staff of the Bexhill Nursing Association under the supervision of the East Sussex County Council.

(1) Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The Number of midwives practising within the Borough on the the 31st December, 1944 was 9.

ATTENDANCES AT THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, ANTE-NATAL
AND DENTAL CLINICS.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic.

(a) Mothers:

Number attending	..	..	240
Number of attendances	..	..	1551

(b) Children:

Number who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendances were:-

(i)	Under one year	..	..	124
(ii)	Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	30

Percentage of notified births represented by the number in (b) (i)	..	42.2
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Number of attendances by children:-

(i)	Under one year	1202
(ii)	Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	512

Ante-Natal Clinic.

Number of Expectant Mothers attending	110
Number of attendances	.. .. 181

Dental Clinic.

Number of attendances by Mothers	..	132
Number of attendances by Infants	..	5

(ii) Institutional provision for Mothers and Children.

The facilities for institutional treatment for mothers, as described in previous reports, have continued to be available.

(iii) Health Visitors.

The following statement shows the visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year:-

To Expectant Mothers:

First visits ..	84
Subsequent visits	418

To Infants under one year:

First visits ..	294
Total visits ..	1384

To Children ages 1 to 5 years .. 1384

Total visits paid by Health	
Visitors	2768

3. Maternity and Nursing Homes.

The East Sussex County Council is the local Supervising Authority under Part VI of the Public Health Act, 1936. The following particulars with reference to the Homes in Bexhill have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:-

Total number of homes registered in the Borough	..	8
Number of applications for registration during 1944	..	2
Homes registered during the year .. ..	..	2
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	..	-
Nursing homes closed down during the year by owners	..	1

REPORT OF STAFF OFFICER ON THE
CIVIL DEFENCE (CASUALTY) SERVICES.

The calls on the Service during the year were heavier, on account of the flying-bomb period, which entailed additional strength standing-by at Depots and Posts, and a constant state of readiness to meet this emergency.

The amalgamation of Rescue and First Aid Parties, coupled with the Ambulance Service, proved to be of considerable advantage. Keener co-operation and team work were apparent at Incidents.

All branches of the Casualty Services maintained a high standard of efficiency and dealt with casualties very promptly. The manning of Depots, Posts, etc. on occasions necessary, was quickly effected by all personnel.

Personnel of the Ambulance Service continued to act in conjunction with St. John's Ambulance Brigade, attending to street accidents, transporting maternity cases, etc. The total number of calls answered during the year, other than air raids, was 67 for Ambulance and 91 for Sitting Cars. This valuable work was of considerable benefit to the personnel, affording excellent experience in handling and treating casualties, and also enabling the Service to maintain a keen interest in their work during lull periods.

The excellent spirit of good will and friendly social activities at all Depots, Posts, etc., assisted the officers in maintaining efficient co-operation and good discipline.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (1) Water Supply.

The control of the water supply within the Borough is delegated to the Borough Council under the Bexhill Corporation Act, 1925.

New sources of public water supply are being explored, but a report is not yet available.

With regard to:-

- (a) Quality - The water is of excellent quality both for drinking and domestic purposes.
- (b) Quantity - The supply has met the demands of those parts of the Borough which are on a piped supply and there has been no curtailment during the year.

There has been no change in the arrangements with regard to the bacteriological and chemical examination of the piped supply of the Borough from those outlined in previous reports. During 1944, 11 samples were submitted for bacteriological and/or chemical examination, all of which were very satisfactory.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1944 in the water area was 843,000 gallons. It represents an increase of 57,000 gallons per day as compared with 1943.

Approximately 98% of dwelling-houses and of the population is supplied by Water Main or Standpipe.

(11) Drainage and Sewerage.

No sewers were constructed during the year either by the Council or private enterprise, but maintenance works to the sewerage system were up to normal standards.

2. (1) Closet Accommodation.

There were no conversions from pail closets during the year.

(ii) Public Cleansing and Salvage.

The supervision of the work of the removal and disposal of house refuse is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. The Corporation Tip situated in St. Mary's Lane, in a more rural part of the Borough, is in a satisfactory condition.

Difficulties of labour and transport have made it impossible to achieve a weekly collection of house refuse from all houses, but every effort has been directed at keeping the frequency of collection within the limit of one visit in fourteen days.

Much attention has been given to salvage, and the tonnage of waste materials recovered has been consistently good.

No further reductions have had to be made in the staff engaged on street cleansing, and it has been possible to have all streets regularly swept and kept in a satisfactory condition.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the year the district has been inspected and the necessary action taken to deal with any nuisance or defaults discovered. The following table indicates the scope and extent of the duties performed during the year:-

T A B L E 5

Dwelling-houses inspected	..	..	188
Re-visits re above	..	..	595
Visits to drainage work in progress	..	..	220
Overcrowding	..	..	17
Smoke Abatement	..	..	3
Schools	..	..	5
Water supply	..	..	111
Stables and piggeries.	..	..	16
Factories, workplaces, etc.	..	..	61
Bakehouses	..	..	15
Shops	..	..	112
Public conveniences	..	..	8
Theatres and cinemas	..	..	2
Rats and Mice	..	..	649
Foodshops	..	..	202
Other food visits	..	..	207
Cow-sheds, dairies and milkshops	..	..	236
Milk sampling	..	..	75
Infectious disease and disinfection	..	..	795
Disinfestation	..	..	95
Mosquito Control	..	..	9
Civil Defence	..	..	171
Air Raid Shelters	..	..	153
Decontamination - Food	..	..	10
Miscellaneous	..	..	592

COMPLAINTS

During the year, 225 complaints were received, and in 201 instances it was possible to take remedial action.

The following table indicates the nature of the complaints received:-

T A B L E 6

Condition of premises	..	9
Housing defects	..	34
Water supply ..	..	3
Drains and sanitary fittings		60
Verminous premises	..	6
Keeping of animals	..	3
Accumulation of refuse, etc.		2
Rats and mice ..	..	85
Milk and dairies	..	3
Shops Act, 1934	..	1
Smoke nuisances	..	1
Food premises ..	..	3
Miscellaneous ..	..	15
		<hr/>
		225
		<hr/>

SANITARY DEFECTS & NOTICES.

Table 7 shows the number of defects found and the notices served together with the results. It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings under the Milk and Dairies Order in one instance.

	Notices		Number Complied with.	No. Out- standing at end of year.
	Prelim- inary.	Statu- tory.		
Contraventions of:-				
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	9	-	12	3
Factories Act, 1937	8	-	10	1
Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919	97	-	100	5
Shops Act, 1934	5	-	3	2
Dampness arising from:-				
Defective roofs	17	-	7	11
Defective eaves gutters, rainwater pipes	4	-	2	2
Defective external pointing	2	-	1	1
Other causes	4	-	2	5
Defective floors	37	-	14	27
Sub-floor ventilation	15	-	6	11
Defective doors, cupboards, etc.	2	-	2	1
Defective window frames, sash cords, etc.	8	-	1	7
Defective internal plasterwork	4	-	-	4
Defective fireplaces, stoves, etc.	4	-	4	1
Dirty condition of rooms or premises	11	-	11	2
Verminous premises	12	-	12	-
New baths fixed	6	-	5	1
New lavatory basins fixed	1	-	1	-
New W.C. Basins fixed	4	-	2	2
New W.C. compartments constructed	7	-	5	2
Defective water closets	6	-	7	-
Insufficient flush to water closets	5	-	4	1
Untrapped or defective wastepipes	7	-	5	2
New sinks provided	1	-	-	1
Soil pipes fixed or repaired	1	-	-	1
Defective manholes or covers	2	-	2	-
Obstructed drains	37	2	38	2
Defective drains and new branch drains laid	20	-	15	7
Defective yard pavings	1	-	1	-
Sanitary dustbins required	4	-	4	-
Accumulation of refuse	9	-	11	-
Water supply provided or reinstated	3	-	2	1
Obstructed ditches	1	-	1	-
Miscellaneous	27	1	21	8
	381	3	311	111

HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

During the year 13 houses were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, and 103 houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action, and 3 following abatement notices.

War damage, particularly that following the flying bomb period, resulted in a severe shortage of labour available for normal maintenance and repair work, and the record of improvements (shown in Table 8) carried out during the year is therefore disappointing.

T A B L E 8

Roofs repaired	9
Eaves gutters, rainwater pipes renewed or repaired .	2
Defective walls repaired and repointed ..	2
Sub-floor ventilation provided ..	7
Dampness abated	3
Floors repaired or renewed ..	16
Plasterwork repaired, cleansed or distempered ..	3
Window frames repaired, sash cords renewed ..	4
New doors fixed or doors repaired ..	2
New baths fixed	5
New lavatory basins fixed ..	3
Stoves or fire grates repaired or renewed ..	4
Existing wastepipes trapped or repaired ..	7
Premises limewashed	2
Portable iron dustbins provided ..	4
New W.C. Compartments constructed ..	5
W.C. Compartments lighted, repaired and ventilated .	4
New pedestal pans fixed ..	9
Flushing cisterns fixed or adjusted ..	8
New manholes provided	2
Existing manholes repaired or covers fixed ..	3
Drains repaired or new branch drains laid. ..	14
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed .	34
Accumulation of refuse, etc., removed ..	9
Water supply provided or reinstated ..	2
Miscellaneous	34

SANITARY CERTIFICATES

At one house the drainage system was smoke tested. When defects were made good, a Sanitary Certificate, bearing the seal of the Council and stating that all drains, fittings and appliances were in satisfactory condition, was issued. This certificate remains in force for three years.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year 32 visits were made to factories with mechanical power, and 12 to factories with no mechanical power. Following the service of notices one new water closet and urinal was erected, seven premises were cleansed and two other defects were remedied.

RODENT CONTROL.

Destruction of rats and mice has been widely publicised by the Ministry of Food, local authorities remaining responsible to carry out the provisions of the Act and Orders. As a result of this publicity there was a slight increase in the number of complaints received, but the problem in the Borough remains a small one, there being no evidence of widespread or major infestations.

The information supplied, and the courses of instruction arranged, by the Ministry of Food have proved useful, and there is no doubt that methodical treatment and the close co-operation between contiguous authorities, have shown good results.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of visits paid under this heading during the year was 795, as compared with 659 in 1943.

The quarterly disinfection of bedding and of dormitories at all Civil Defence Depots was continued, and was greatly appreciated by personnel. The lifting of the ban and the return of evacuated families discovered many houses infested by moths, and there has been a steady stream of bedding (particularly mattresses) to be steam-treated at the disinfecting station.

The following table indicates the variety and number of articles disinfected or destroyed, and the number of rooms fumigated:-

ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED

Wearing apparel	..	217
Beds ..	..	17
Bed covers .	..	19
Mattresses .	..	407
Eiderdowns .	..	23
Bolsters ..	..	37
Pillows ..	..	281
Blankets ..	..	339
Sheets ..	..	58
Miscellaneous	..	277

Total 1875

ROOMS FUMIGATED

Cancer ..	..	1
Scarlet Fever	..	24
Tuberculosis	..	9
Vermin ..	..	14
Miscellaneous	..	31

Total 79

(iv) Smoke Abatement.

One complaint was received, and improvement effected following structural alteration to the chimney concerned.

(v) Swimming Baths and Pools.

Improvements to the conveniences for both sexes at Egerton Park open air baths were commenced at the end of the season. The bath remained very popular, and during warm weather bathers were admitted in relays and their time in the bath had to be limited. The beaches remained closed to the public throughout the season and this no doubt accounted for the very large numbers of visitors at the baths.

All four samples of water taken from the baths during the season were satisfactory.

There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the Public within the Borough.

(vi) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was as follows:-

<u>Infested</u>			<u>Disinfested</u>		
(a)	Council houses	.. 2	(a)	Council houses	.. 2
(b)	Other houses	.. 4	(b)	Other houses	.. 4

In all such cases bedding is steam treated; Council houses are disinfested by this Department, and where non-Council houses are concerned, the owners are advised as to satisfactory methods, and their workmen supervised.

Schools.

The general position with regard to hygiene in schools remains unchanged.

The recommendations contained in the Memorandum on Closure and Exclusion from School, 1927, with regard to the means to be taken to prevent the spread of Infectious Disease have been followed. A small outbreak of scarlet fever occurred in an "under fives" class at an elementary school, where the patients included the teacher, and it was decided to close the class for one week.

H O U S I N G

General details with regard to new houses erected, inspection of dwelling-houses, particulars of overcrowding, etc. are submitted in the following tabular form:-

Number of new houses erected during the year	Nil
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1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	188
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	..	..	763
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and re-recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	..	..	13
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	..	..	26
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	..	..	Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	..	..	129

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	102
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-				
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..		..	..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-				
	(a) By owners ..		..	..	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..		..	..	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	..	..	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:			
	(a) By owners	..	..	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	..	..	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	..	..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	..	..	Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	..	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	..	..	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

There were no cases of overcrowding reported at the end of 1943, and no new cases occurred in 1944.

This satisfactory position is temporary only, and is due to war conditions (in particular, evacuation). In view of the very great movement of population to and from coastal areas, a complete survey of the Borough will be required to ascertain the true position.

S E C T I O N E

I N S P E C T I O N & S U P E R V I S I O N O F F O O D

a. Milk Supply.

A total of 236 visits was made by the Sanitary Inspector to cowsheds, dairies and milk shops during 1944.

Registrations.

The accompanying table gives the total number of persons and premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943, at the conclusion of 1944, and particulars of the licences that were granted under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1941:-

Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	..	18
Retail Purveyors of Milk	.. ..	10
Premises as Cowsheds or Dairies	.. ..	32

Designated Milks.

Producer's and Bottler's Licence to sell milk as Accredited	.. .. ..	1
Producer's Licence to sell milk as Accredited	..	3
Bottler's Licence to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested.	..	1
Dealer's Licence to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested	..	1
Pasteuriser's Licence	.. ..	1
Dealer's Licence to sell milk as Pasteurised	..	1

Milk Sampling.

103 samples of milk and 7 bottles were submitted for examination and Table 10 summarises the results.

During the year a pasteurising plant, which had not been used for several years, recommenced operating and owing to the inexperienced operators and mechanical failures, much work was entailed before consistently satisfactory sample results were obtained. The thirty-four samples from Bezhill shown in Table 10 were all obtained from this plant, which was producing a satisfactorily pasteurised milk at the end of the year.

MILK SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE BOROUGH

AREA PRODUCED	Non-graded Milk			Designated Milk					Totals	Bottles		
	Examined by			Examined by Prescribed Tests.		Examined by Accredited.				Totals	Bottles	
	Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests.	Failed both tests.	Failed one test.	Satisfac- tory.	Unsatisfac- tory.	Tuberculin Tested.	Accredited.	Pastourised.			Satisfac- tory.	Unsatisfac- tory.
BEXHILL	15	5	8	-	-	7	2	17	17	71	4	3
VARIOUS	7	5	5	2	4	-	-	5	3	31	-	-
TOTALS	22	10	13	2	4	7	2	22	20	102		

Milk Supply. (Cont.)

Legal Proceedings.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

One producer was convicted for failing to cleanse the flanks, udders and teats of his cows before milking, and was fined £3.

Improvements.

The following work was carried out on request:-

Limewashing of cowsheds	..	10
Repairs to cowsheds ..	..	3
Miscellaneous ..	..	7

Meat and Other Foods.

During the year a total of 639 visits was made by the Inspector to shops, stalls, vehicles and other premises where food is sold, prepared or stored. The hygienic conditions in shops can be considered as being very satisfactory.

No slaughtering was carried out in the Borough during the year; meat supplies are received from Regional Slaughterhouses in the adjoining County Borough of Hastings.

Table 11 gives details of foodstuffs dealt with by the Inspector during the year.

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MEATAND FOOD.(Examined and found to be unfit for human consumption.)

				lbs.		
Meat:						
Beef	..	..	..	218 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Mutton	..	..	..	22		
Pork	..	..	..	51		
Bacon and Ham	..	..	..	212 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Sausages	..	..	..	85		
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	10		
					..	599 lbs.
Fish:						
Kippers	..	..	..	252		
Cod	..	..	..	204		
Herrings	..	..	..	2450		
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	74		
					..	2,980 lbs.
Vegetables and Fruit:						
Onions	..	..	..	265		
Apples	..	..	..	200		
Lemons	..	..	..	53		
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	358 $\frac{1}{2}$		
					..	876 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Tinned Meat	..	..	..	83 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Other tinned foods	..	..	..	297		
Cereals	..	..	..	1152 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Flour	..	..	..	330		
Butter	..	..	..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	750		
					..	2,706 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Enemy Action, Miscellaneous	..	..	..		..	318 lbs.
				Total weight		7,480 lbs.

Disposal.Of this total 3,822 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. were disposed of as follows:-

Ministry of Food Schemes	..	643 lbs.
Animal feeding stuffs	..	3,179 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

The total figure includes 2,605 lbs. of foodstuffs from N.A.A.F.I. depots.

c. Adulteration, etc.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following table, a summary of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act during the year, has kindly been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:-

T A B L E 12

Article	No. of Samples taken		No. Genuine		No. Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
New Milk	9	6	9	6	-	-
Coffee	-	2	-	2	-	-
Sauce	-	1	-	1	-	-
Butter	-	3	-	3	-	-
Special Margarine	-	3	-	3	-	-
Lard	-	3	-	3	-	-
Sausages	-	2	-	2	-	-
Table Dessert	-	1	-	1	-	-

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Prevalence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

There has been no change during the year in the infectious diseases compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

The low incidence reported in the previous year has been fully maintained, and no disease became epidemic.

The following table shows the number of cases notified, the number of cases admitted to Isolation Hospital, and the total deaths:-

T A B L E 13

Disease	Notifications received	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Deaths including in-ward transfers
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever	26	25	-
Pneumonia	12	-	4
Erysipelas	3	1	-
Measles	11	-	-
Whooping Cough	18	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Total	72	27	4

Public Vaccination.

During 1944, 123 certificates and copies of certificates of successful primary vaccinations of children under 14 years of age were received by the Vaccination Officer, and the total number of statutory declarations of conscientious objection, irrespective of the dates of birth of the children, received by the Vaccination Officer was 49.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

13 Sessions for Inoculation and Schick Testing were held during the year.

Particulars of the numbers dealt with for the year ending December, 1944 are shown in the following table:-

T A B L E 14

		<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>Over 5 years.</u>
Number of children who completed the full course during the year	..	133	22
Number of children who were Schick-tested .. .. .	..	120	35
Percentage of the child population fully immunised at 31st December, 1944	..	58%	89%

Facilities are available for children from 12 months to 15 years of age.

Reciprocal arrangements were continued for the completion of inoculation of children who had left the Borough.

Cancer.

The number of deaths certified as being due to Cancer was 47, 19 males and 28 females, as compared with a total of 36, 9 males and 27 females in 1943.

Tuberculosis.

During 1944, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 11 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In addition, 4 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the undermentioned sources:-

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>
Death Returns of cases not previously notified ..	2	-
Transfers from other areas ..	2	-

Cases of Tuberculosis notified within the Borough come under the control of the East Sussex County Council. Examinations are undertaken at the Dispensary, London Road.

The following table shows the total number of cases coming to the notice of the Department, either by primary notification or otherwise, during the year, together with the total number of deaths, classified into age groups:-

T A B L E 15

Age Periods	New Cases (Civilians)				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2	1	1	-	1	-	1	-
25 - 35	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
Over 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	7	2	1	2	3	1	-

Tuberculosis. (Cont.)

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1944 was as follows:-

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary ..	..	40	25	65
Non-Pulmonary	..	10	15	25
		—	—	—
		50	40	90
		—	—	—

Scabies.

The treatment of Scabies continued during the year, up to the end of which the number of cases treated was as follows:-

Adults ..	..	55
School children	..	74
Children under 5 years		25
		—
Total		154
		—

In all cases a second treatment was given after an interval of seven days.

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